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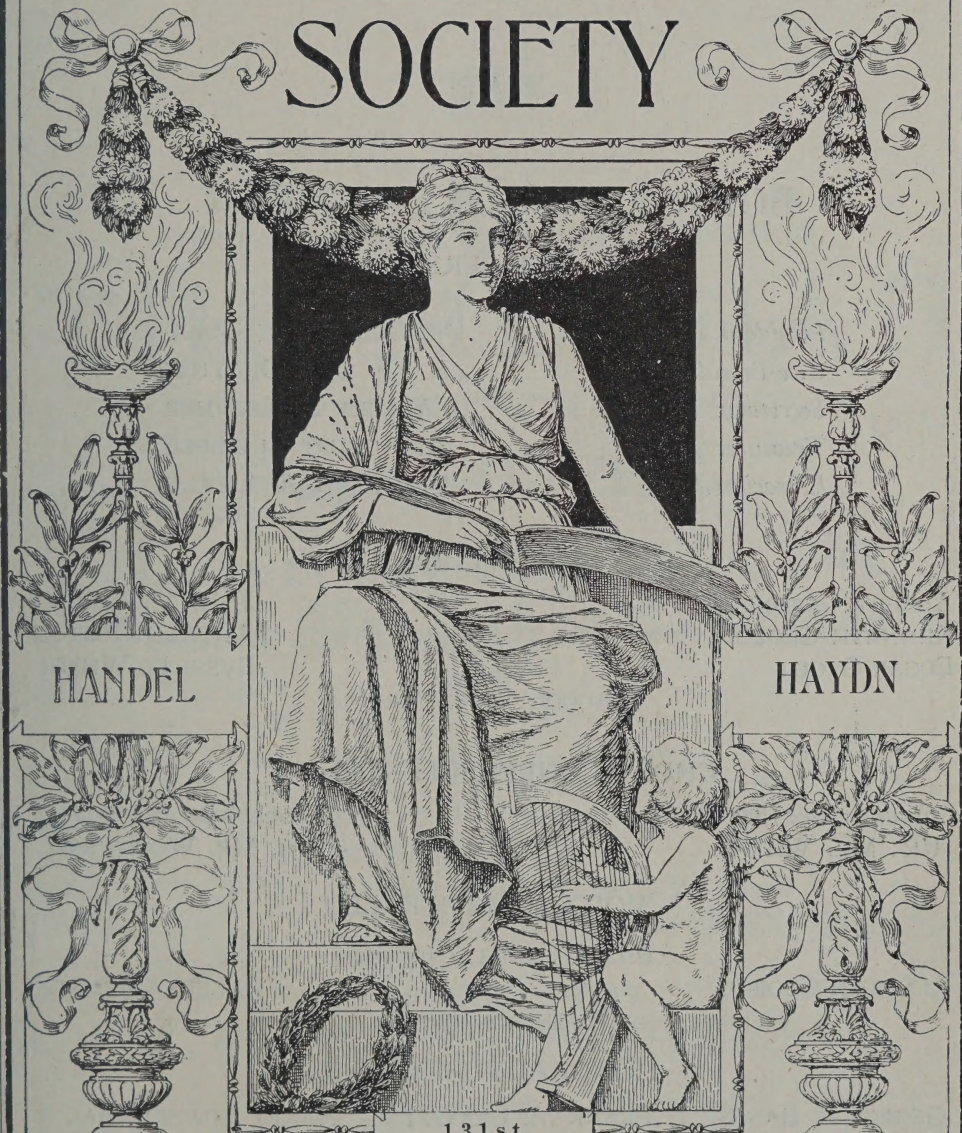

131st
SEASON

SYMPHONY HALL

"THE MESSIAH"

SUNDAY EVENING, DEC. 16, 1945
MONDAY EVENING, DEC. 17, 1945

HANDEL AND HAYDN SOCIETY

131st Season

1945-1946

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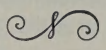
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST SEASON

DR. THOMPSON STONE, *Conductor*



Concerts 890 and 891

GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL'S ORATORIO

THE MESSIAH

179th AND 180th PERFORMANCES BY THIS SOCIETY

Symphony Hall, Boston

Sunday Evening, December 16, 1945
Monday Evening, December 17, 1945

at 8:15

SOLOISTS

IRMA COOPER, *Soprano*

ELLEN REPP, *Contralto*

HAROLD HAUGH, *Tenor*

JOHN METCALF, *Bass*

55 PLAYERS FROM
THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

JULIUS THEODOROWICZ, *Concertmaster*

GEORGES MAGER, *Trumpeter*
EARL WEIDNER, *Organ*

CHICKERING PIANOS *used exclusively by the* HANDEL AND HAYDN SOCIETY.

Piano furnished through courtesy of AMPICO HALL.

GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL

Born in Halle, February 23, 1685 — Died in London, April 13, 1759

THE MESSIAH

ORATORIO, composed in 1741; begun August 22, finished September 14. Text selected from the Scriptures by CHARLES JENNENS. Produced in Dublin, April 13, 1742, under the direction of HANDEL. Additional accompaniments by MOZART, 1789; and by ROBERT FRANZ, for the use of the Handel and Haydn Society, completed and published in 1884. First performance by the Handel and Haydn Society, December 25, 1818, in Boylston Hall; present performances are the 179th and 180th.

PART ONE

THE PROPHECIES AND THE FULFILLMENT

1. Overture (grave: Fugue).

TENOR RECITATIVE

2. Comfort ye my people, saith your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord: make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

ARIA

3. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low: the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

CHORUS

4. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed; and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

BASS RECITATIVE

5. Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: Yet once a little while, and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come; the Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant whom ye delight in; behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

ALTO RECITATIVE

6. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name EMMANUEL. God with us.

CHORUS

7. O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, good tidings to Jerusalem, arise, say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

BASS RECITATIVE

8. For behold darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee and His glory shall be seen upon thee, and the Gentiles shall come to Thy light, and kings to the brightness of Thy rising.

ARIA

9. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath light shined.

CHORUS

10. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

11. Pastoral Symphony (on the traditional air of the Calabrian pifferari).

SOPRANO RECITATIVE

12. There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

13. And lo! the angel of the Lord came upon them; and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

14. And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

15. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying:

CHORUS

16. Glory to God in the highest; and peace on earth, good will towards men.

SOPRANO ARIA

17. Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold thy King cometh unto thee! He is the righteous Savior; and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

ALTO RECITATIVE

18. Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened; and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

ALTO AND SOPRANO ARIA

19. He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom; and gently lead those that are with young. . . . Come unto Him, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and He will give you rest; Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him; for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

CHORUS

20. His yoke is easy, and his burden is light.

END OF PART ONE

INTERMISSION

PART TWO

THE PASSION AND THE TRIUMPH

CHORUS

21. Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.

ALTO ARIA

22. He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

CHORUS

23. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way. And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

TENOR RECITATIVE

24. Thy rebuke hath broken His heart; He is full of heaviness; He looked for some to have pity on Him, but there was no man; neither found He any to comfort Him.

ARIA

25. Behold and see, if there be any sorrow like unto His sorrow.

TENOR RECITATIVE

26. He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of Thy people was He stricken.

ARIA

27. But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell; nor didst Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption.

CHORUS

28. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.

BASS ARIA

29. Why do the nations so furiously rage together; and why do the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His anointed.

CHORUS

30. Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yokes from us.

CHORUS

31. Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. HALLELUJAH!

SOPRANO ARIA

32. I know that my Redeemer liveth; and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

BASS RECITATIVE

33. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep; but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinking of an eye, at the last trumpet.

ARIA

34. The trumpet shall sound; and the dead shall be raised incorruptible; and we shall be changed.

CHORUS

35. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain and hath redeemed us to God by His blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength and honour, and glory, and blessing. Blessing and honour, glory and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, forever and ever.

36. Amen!

THE PERMANENT FUND

of the Handel and Haydn Society was established by a deed of trust on May 28, 1866. The net proceeds of the Great Festival of May 1865, at the end of the Civil War, furnished the foundation of the Fund, and it has grown slowly by gifts and bequests.

Only the income of the Fund can be used for the benefit of the Society, and without this aid it would not have been possible to present the concerts of the last twenty years. With greater income the Society could give more and better concerts.

This oldest large choral society in America has had a prominent part in the musical life of Boston for 130 years. Gifts to the Fund will be welcome at Christmas time or at any other time. They are deductible from taxable income. A bequest to the Fund in a will costs the testator nothing, and will help in maintaining the musical prestige of Boston and of its oldest choral society.

The Trustees of the Permanent Fund are

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Symphony Hall

Boston Symphony Orchestra

SERGE KOUSSEVITZKY, *Conductor*

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERIES

SECOND CONCERT, DECEMBER 30, at 3:30
MORTON GOULD, *Conducting*

The remaining five concerts will be given on December 30, January 27, March 3, March 31, April 21

Tickets for the five concerts are suggested as an excellent Christmas gift